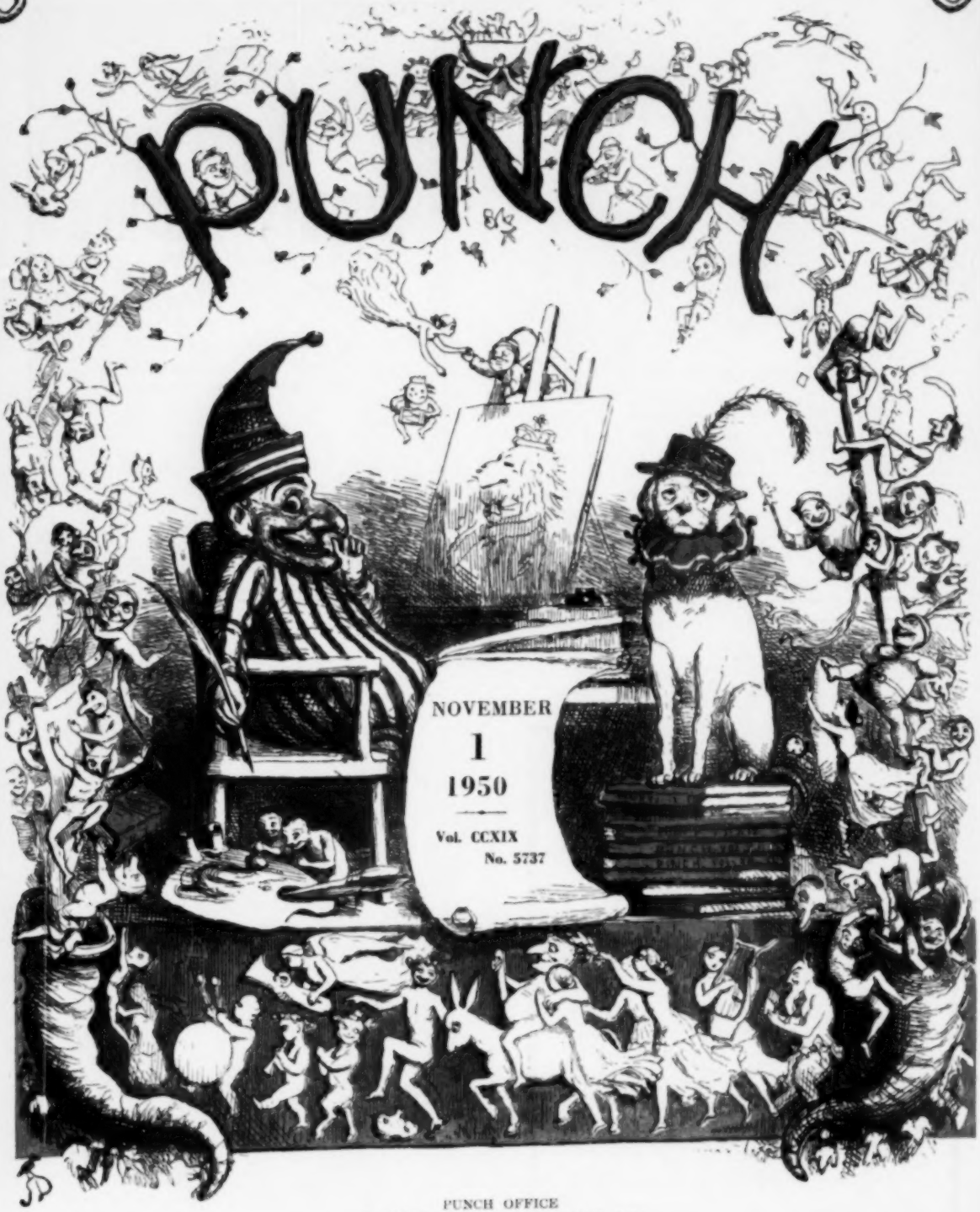
PUNCH or THE LONDON CHARIVARI—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 1950

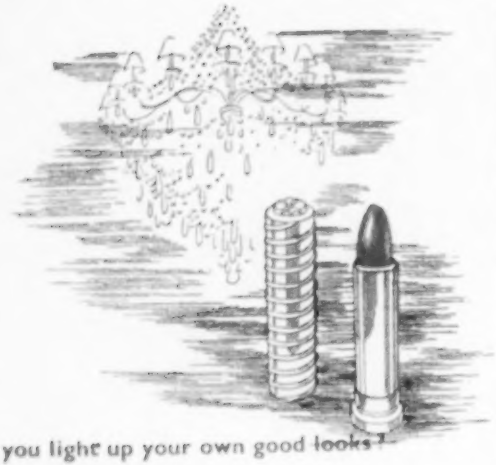
6D

6D

PUNCH



PUNCH OFFICE
10 BOUVERIE STREET LONDON E.C.4



Do you light up your own good looks?

Don't do a fade out when the lights come on! Go in for brilliant lips—but take care not to choose a lipstick that clashes with your gown. Yardley give you no less than nine shades from which to make a happy choice. The newest, a real charmer, is Pretty Pink—a vibrant rose. You'll find it looks as lovely with pastels as with black and other fashion colours. Price incl. p. tax 6/6

YARDLEY

33 OLD BOND STREET, LONDON

IMPERIAL LEATHER

HAND-FINISHED

Toilet Soaps

All who are sensitive to the finer shades of quality delight in Cussons hand finished Imperial Leather Toilet Soaps.

CUSSONS SONS & CO. LTD, 64 BROOK ST, GROSVENOR SQ, LONDON, W.1

Wherever fine cigarettes are appreciated .... Smokers choose

The House of STATE EXPRESS 210 PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1.

Swan Shoes

DL 167

DL 166

Two Bootee models with warm fleecy lining. Styled by Swan for winter wear, and fashioned by fine craftsmen. Swan Shoes are sold at the better shoe shops and stores throughout the United Kingdom.

For men's shoes by CROCKETT & JONES LTD., NORTHAMPTON ask for *Health Brand*

CVS 166

All round the Clock

there's always time for

NESCAFÉ

Good coffee; with the full rich flavour, roaster-fresh fragrance! Yet so quick to make — put a spoonful of Nescafé in the cup, add near-boiling water. With Nescafé you're sure of perfect coffee every time. Nescafé retains all its strength and goodness, sealed in by the special Nestlé process until the touch of hot water releases it for your enjoyment.

Nescafé is a soluble coffee product composed of coffee solids, combined and powdered with dextrine, maltose and dextrose added to protect the flavour.

ANOTHER OF NESTLÉ'S GOOD THINGS

S1.C

THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. LTD. MAGNET HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2

YOU'LL USE IT EVERY DAY

— several times a day!

'PYREX' BRAND OVEN-TABLE GLASSWARE

1 COMPLETE CASSEROLE *Use it for delicious stews, hot-pots, for stewing fruit, anything requiring slow, oven cooking. Serve vegetables in it — keeps them piping-hot at table.*

2 BOTTOM HALF. *Without the lid, the bottom half is perfect for shepherd's pie, milk puddings, baked apples — you'll think of lots more!*

3 THE LID. *Use it for cooking snacks like baked stuffed tomatoes. It's a perfect serving dish, too.*

"THE most useful thing I've ever had in my kitchen!" That's what housewives say about this 'Pyrex' brand casserole. The lid is one dish — the base is another. Put them together and you have a perfectly-fitting casserole. And it costs only 6/-. Think of the economy — in cupboard space *and* money!

This lovely oven-table glassware cooks food to perfection. Gently the clear glass absorbs the heat, passing it on evenly and steadily to the food inside. There's no fear of drying up or frizzling. Food is rich in its own juices and flavour, perfectly cooked, and goes straight to the table looking doubly tempting in the gleaming glass. No dishing-up, no waste, no saucepans to be washed up. And second helpings are as hot as first ones!

Treat yourself to this lovely ovenware that's so economical, so labour-saving, and that brings you lots of compliments on your cooking! Your local shop has 'Pyrex' brand oven-table glassware — plenty of choice now.

"My family love asking friends to meals,"

says Mrs. E. B. of Holland Park, W.11

"And I love entertaining them! It's really no trouble with my 'Pyrex' brand oven-ware. There's no dreadful, flurried dishing-up — the meal is out of the oven and on to the table in a twinkling! And it always looks so attractive!"

BEST FOR COOKING, CHEAPEST AND LOVELIEST OVEN-TABLE WARE

'PYREX' BRAND

OVEN-TABLE GLASSWARE

All 'Pyrex' brand ovenware carries a 12 months' free replacement guarantee against breakage by oven-heat. It is made by James A. Jobling & Company Limited, Wear Glass Works, Sunderland.

We can't claim that even an Old Bleach pure linen Kitchen Cloth will make a husband, not trained to the job from youth, *leap* to dry up — but its clean, aristocratic look will certainly make him more willing. Linen is super-absorbent — gets the job done quickly. Always looks fresh and wears well. Brighten your maidless home with some of these gaily striped affairs.

ALL DRY WITH

OLD BLEACH KITCHEN CLOTHS

Old Bleach Linen Co Ltd, Randalstown, Northern Ireland

Take pride in your gifted child

BUT TAKE CARE TO GUARD THOSE GIFTS, TOO . . .

TO be the parents of a gifted child is to know real pride; pride in your child's achievements, pride in each new success.

But, as parents, you, too, have a part to play in forming your child's future. Gifted children are usually the most sensitive, the most highly strung. They live at a higher pitch than other children; their store of nervous energy is constantly in danger of being overdrawn.

Those bouts of listlessness or nervous irritability, the sudden tantrums, the moody lolling in chairs—they are all signs of one thing. The child has spent that nervous energy too quickly; there is nothing to fall back on.

Your duty is to see that this doesn't happen; to see that the child gets needed *extra* nourishment. And the ideal way to do that is with Horlicks.

Horlicks is so valuable for children because it contains, in an easily digestible form, the extra nourishment that their bodies need. Give it at bedtimes—and mealtimes, too—and then you'll know that you are helping to build the reserves of stamina that all growing, highly-strung children must have.

Start your child on Horlicks tonight.

HORLICKS

Gifts to remember . . .

When you seek gifts of quality combined with practical usefulness remember the charm and dignity of pure leather. Look for the symbol of Mark Cross, recognised in London and New York as indicative of the highest quality in leather goods. The wide range of Mark Cross gifts for discriminating men and women is obtainable in quality shops and stores.

MARK CROSS

Craftsmen in Fine Leathers

"Staybrite" Steel

The beauty, hygiene and usefulness of "Staybrite" steel kitchen utensils is with you again — good shops everywhere are now beginning to get supplies of domestic articles made from "Staybrite" steel — the ideal metal for the home

FIRTH-VICKERS STAINLESS STEELS LTD., SHEFFIELD.

with a

Jacqmar scarf

you are first

in fashion

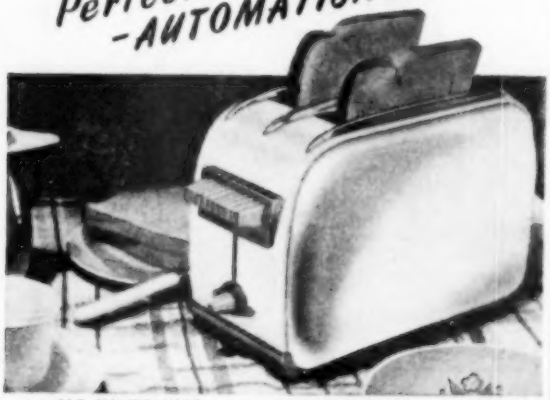
Give smartly this Christmas. Choose one of the original designs at

Jacqmar

16 GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W.1

and leading fashion houses throughout the country

Perfect Toast -AUTOMATICALLY



★ NO WATCHING

★ NO WAITING

★ NO SUPERVISION

Toast as you like it, when you like it—at your table. Perfect toast, from first slice to last slice. *Automatically* and with clockwork precision. This ingenious toaster, in attractive chrome and plastic finish, will give years of trouble free service.

Price: £5. 18. 0.

Voltages: 100/120, 200/210, 220/230, 240/250, A.C. and D.C.

Obtainable from usual electrical suppliers. Write for name of nearest stockist to the makers

FALKS

Robot Toaster

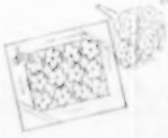
AUTOMATICALLY YOURS

FALKS U DEPT., 91, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.1.

'Ebe' for Phoebe...

In a few moments now she'll be bathing in Mediterranean Blue, Neptune Green or maybe Rose-dawn! Exotic? Rather! But practical too. Ebe Bath Powder has nothing in common with those all-too-brilliantly-coloured soda crystals which masquerade as bath salts under a fancy name and a 'perfume' that takes your breath away! Ebe bath powder (in whichever of its romantic forms you buy it) *softens* bath water . . . instantly . . . to a silky voluptuousness in which the soap practically purrs as it lathers! Water as soft as this gives your skin an exhilarating pore-deep cleansing all over. Ebe *scents* bath water — with subtly attractive perfume that men are beginning to discover is Night-scented Stock . . . . And Ebe *tints* the water . . . just for fun . . . into whichever romantic hue your mood dictates. Treat yourself to an Ebe Bath — and see!

BATHTIME ebe LUXURIES



BATH POWDERS

Compressed into coloured flower shapes. One to a bath. Posies of 6 for 4/11 or caskets of 12, assorted colours 8/2. Bath Powder in handsome 1 lb. Jars, enough for dozens of baths 11/5. ½ lb. Jar 6/6½. Dainty packets 2/11.

ebe BATH SOAP

The most luxurious soap there is, with the same heavenly fragrance as other Ebe extravagances! In bath-size tablets — 1/10½.

All prices include Purchase Tax.

Manufactured by Opera Omnis Ltd. Ostine House, 44 Kennington Lane, S.E.11

CPS-12

Champagne

makes it an occasion

It's going to be a great day . . . for someone . . . for you? A day with a lilt in it: a joyous, heart-stirring, world-stands-still day. *Champagne makes it an occasion.*

ISSUED BY COMITÉ INTERPROFESSIONNEL DU VIN DE CHAMPAGNE, EPERNAY, FRANCE

No matter what you pay for a pen

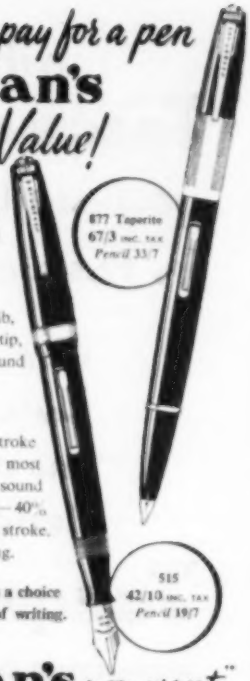
Waterman's

give greatest Value!

STYLE Beautifully styled and obtainable in several attractive colours.

SMOOTHNESS Each nib, with its 25-year Osmiridium tip, is 14-carat gold and hand-ground for "extra-smooth" writing.

SKILL Waterman's one-stroke box lever—the most simple, most effective, most scientifically sound filling method yet devised—40% greater ink capacity with one stroke. Proved by 65 years' pen making.



No matter how you hold your pen—there is a choice of nibs to suit every taste and every style of writing.

PRICE RANGE 67/3 to 25/8

"It's a **Waterman's** you want"
BRITISH MADE

PENS · PENCILS · BALL POINTERS · INKS

MACKENZIE'S
FINO PERLA
SHERRY
(PRODUCE OF SPAIN)

A Splendid Aperitif

FROM YOUR WINE MERCHANT

"The Best of the Bunch"

MACKENZIE & Co., LTD. 20, EASTCHEAP, LONDON

A superb Dent's glove with a skin-supple fit

A UNIQUE GLOVE BY DENT'S, in soft brown cape with an all-wool lining in a very practical pull-on style. The "Double V" wrists give you increased comfort, and the inner facing of leather turns over smartly at the cuff.

Seventy-two separate processes go into the making of these gloves by Dent's, and the leather is so treated that it can only stretch *across* the glove—and then to a precise extent. This means that after years of use you'll find these gloves are as comfortable and good-looking as new.

In fact, a pair of Dent's gloves can be a joy for practically ever!

THE SECRET OF "HIDDEN FIT"

Enough "stretch" is worked into the *width* of your glove to let it expand exactly to your own glove size. But however often you pull it on or off, a Dent's glove can never stretch *lengthways* beyond its correct length.

Dent's gloves for men

Sturdy little rascals

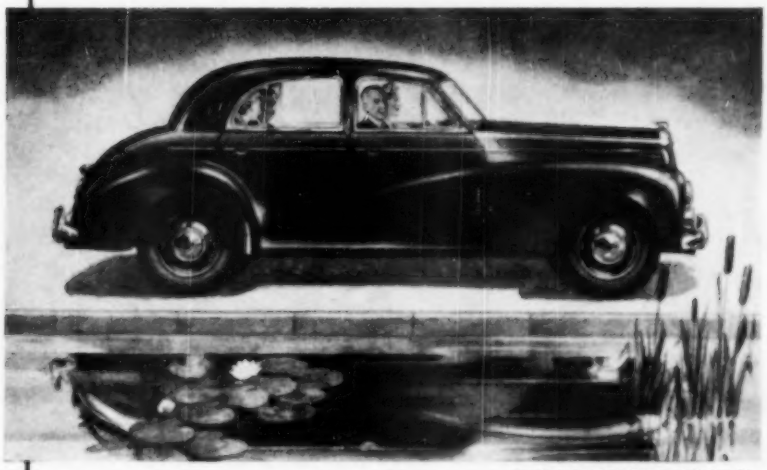
Not too heavy with fat, not too light in bone — just healthy even growth. Mother got them early into the habit of taking their SevenSeaS Cod Liver Oil (took it herself when Susan was arriving) and there lies the secret of even growth. The extra vitamin, caloric and fat values in this sea-fresh food ensure that, when the time comes, they will not outgrow their strength.

SevenSeaS SEA-FRESH FOOD

Obtainable from all chemists, oil from 1/6, capsules from 1/9.

Issued by the International Wool Secretariat

Gracefully Modern - Distinctly Wolseley



"Four Fifty": £550 *plus* £153 . 10 . 7 *Purchase Tax*
"Six Eighty": £680 *plus* £187 . 0 . 4 *Purchase Tax*

The "Four Fifty" and "Six Eighty" are silent witnesses that in the hands of Wolseley craftsmen the modern motor car can be a thing of shapely beauty without the loss of an inch of space or a decimal point of performance.

WOLSELEY

WOLSELEY MOTORS LIMITED, COWLEY, OXFORD
Overseas Business: Nuffield Exports Ltd., Oxford and 41, Piccadilly, London, W.1

NUFFIELD PRODUCTS

London Showrooms: Eustace Watkins Ltd., 13, Berkeley Street, W.1.

SPARE 5 MINUTES A DAY FOR FIGURE AND FITNESS

Simple Self-massage invention will soon have you looking and feeling years younger

You can have a slim, trim figure—you can regain the light step of youth without wearing yourself out with physical jerks. Massage is the key—massage of the vital muscles of the abdomen, on whose strength and tone your figure, carriage and digestion depend. Now a simple self-massage invention — the Rallie Health Belt—makes it easy to give yourself the benefits of abdominal massage.

READ WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Ingenious appliance . . . affords gentle massage to the abdominal muscles" says *The Lancet*. "Should prove invaluable to the man or woman of middle age whose figure has begun to spread" says *The Medical World*.

GLORIOUS FEELING OF WELL-BEING

A few minutes daily with your Rallie Health Belt gives you gentle massage that is wonderfully exhilarating—and every movement helps to tone and strengthen all-important muscles, to restore a sagging waistline, to slim away unwanted flesh easily, naturally. The Rallie Health Belt is not a corset, nor an ordinary belt for constant wear. It is especially designed for abdominal massage and worn only while exercising. It is equally suitable for men and women.

The 'Rallie' Massage Apparatus shown with the pulling strands extended. The device is for men and women of all ages.

The pulling strands contract and relax the 'Rallie' Massage Apparatus alternately, exercising abdominal muscles, and massaging internal organs.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET FREE

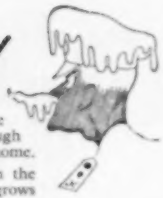
Write, enclosing 2½d. stamp, to

RALLIE HEALTH APPLIANCES LTD.

Dept. 130 F

62 PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1

BETTER LATE— THAN SHIVER!



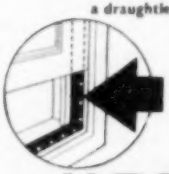
. . . and shiver you surely will, when GENERAL WINTER, already waiting in the wings, begins to pour his icy draughts through every door and window in your office or your home.

Will you be waiting too; just to join the autumn queue for HERMESEAL, which grows so rapidly after the first cold spell appears?

Not if you take action NOW! Be wise, and ensure the blessings of draught protection are yours *before* the weather breaks!

DO YOU KNOW THAT DRAUGHT EXCLUSION BY HERMESEAL PERMANENTLY PREVENTS UP TO 95% OF THE COLD AIR LEAKAGE THROUGH DRAUGHTY DOORS AND WINDOWS? This means

- ★ **Reduction in heat losses**
- ★ **Higher internal temperature**
- ★ **Lower fuel consumption**
- ★ **Healthier living conditions**
- ★ **The marked increase in winter living comfort which only a draughtless home can give.**



We are at your service TODAY. May we send you full details?

HERMESEAL is a strip of phosphor bronze alloy which is fitted by our own technicians in any type of door or window. It is permanent and carries a ten year guarantee, and will more than repay its cost in a few winter seasons.

Our local representative will be pleased to call.

HERMESEAL

means warmer homes

BRITISH HERMESEAL LTD.
Head Office: 4, PARK LANE, LONDON, W.1.
Telephone: GROsvenor 4324 (3 lines)

FOR GLOWING WARMTH AND COMFORT

THE TEWKESBURY

NEW WORLD SILENT BEAM Gas Fires burn *silently*, flooding the room with luxurious warmth. They are notably economical with the gas, having a 3-position tap and are provided with automatic lighting. See the complete series of attractive designs and colour finishes at your nearest Gas Showrooms.

Yours for a few pence a day in most Gas Board areas

it's a NEW WORLD for me

Product of Radiation Ltd

AHEAD OF ALL

The high standard set by modern hygiene is exemplified in these beautiful Stainless Steel Sinks and Cabinets, which can be obtained from all genuine Builders and Plumbers Merchants.

BRITISH GOOD HOUSEKEEPING INSTITUTE GUARANTEE

For Superior Quality inside

W. H. PAUL LTD., Breaston
DERBY

METAL PAUL COLA

WINTER *beauty,* **GLOWING** *beauty,*

begins at ground level with cosy

toes and **WARM-CLAD** *ankles.*

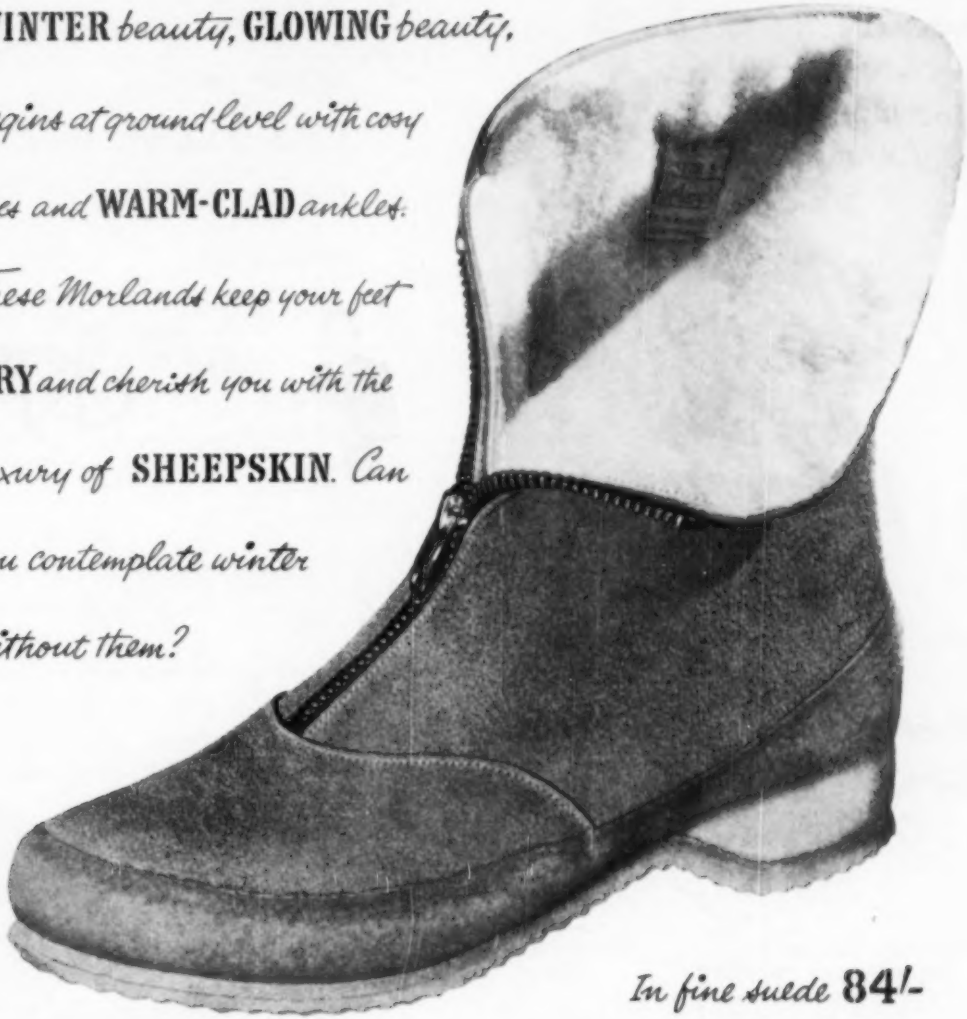
These Morlands keep your feet

DRY *and cherish you with the*

luxury of **SHEEPSKIN**. *Can*

you contemplate winter

without them?



In fine suede **84/-**

A Lady's Slipper in suede 35/9

A Lady's Zipp Boot in leather 91/9

WHICH DO YOU PREFER—Ankle-high, mid-calf, or full length; zipp or laced? Whichever it is, there is a Morlands boot for YOU—or an overshoe. And slippers for when you are at home.

Morlands

THE FAMOUS GLASTONBURYS

Sold by good shoe shops everywhere

CLARK, SON & MORLAND LIMITED • GLASTONBURY • SOMERSET

SCHWEPPES TONIC ON ITS OWN IS A DRINK WITH MANY RIVALS

BUT NO EQUALS

SCHWEPPERVESCENCE LASTS THE WHOLE DRINK THROUGH

Which of these men is **YOU?**

"I'VE GOT A VERY STIFF BEARD — so that my face often used to feel like sandpaper. But not now — my Philishave is always handy to give me a trim whenever I need it."

"I LIKE EASE AND COMFORT — in big things and small alike. That's why I always use a Philishave. So much easier and pleasanter than messing about with soap and water."

"I MUST LOOK SMART IN MY JOB — so I always use a Philishave. Because of its big round shaving head it gives a beautifully smooth *clean* shave. Does the job so quickly, too."

The large 6-bladed rotary shaving head of the Philips Philishave electric dry shaver is more than a match for even the toughest beards. Try the Philishave today and give your chin the pleasure of a really *smooth* dry shave. Operates on any voltage — A.C. or D.C. Available at appointed Electrical and Radio Dealers and Departmental Stores.

PHILIPS

PHILISHAVE

ELECTRIC DRY SHAVER

Chosen for installation in all B.O.A.C. Aircraft

A Product of Philips Electrical Ltd., Century House, Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2

PRICES **£5.17.6** (tax paid) including plastic pouch

For men

on their feet...

a real comfort shoe

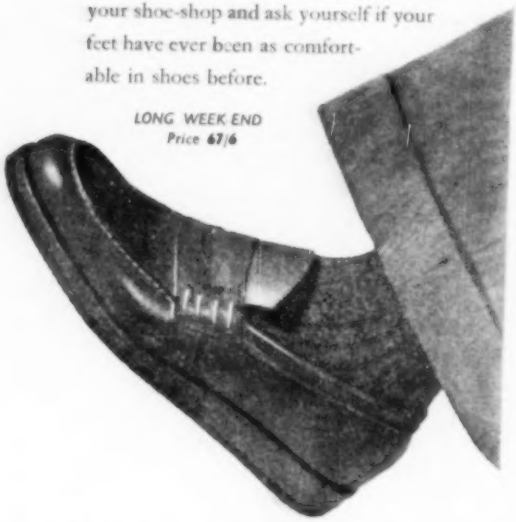
for men

created by

Wm Joyce.

Plenty of men have been saying it's high time something was done for masculine foot comfort. Well, gentlemen, here is the answer — Wm. Joyces. Try on a pair in your shoe-shop and ask yourself if your feet have ever been as comfortable in shoes before.

LONG WEEK END
Price 67/6



Made on a new type last in multiple fittings. Wm Joyce. *signature in every pair.*

JOYCE (CALIFORNIA) LTD. 37-38 OLD BOND STREET, W.1. (Wholesale only)

CHARIVARIA

EXPLAINING that the effects engineer has a worrying job, a radio article points out that he gets very little credit for it. It must be disconcerting to find that his thunder is always being stolen.

Eastern Germany's five-hundred-thousand-strong police force is fully equipped with tommy guns, mortars, armoured cars and tanks. The authorities are stated to be pointing with pride to the steps they are taking to stop all this petty pilfering and shoplifting.

Kind Hearts and Simple Faith

"Mr. M—— was a well known personality in the district. He was a farmer of repute, and came of a long line of ancestors."

Parish magazine

A writer says his idea of a rest and a change is to go into the country for a picnic and forget everything. Including the thing for opening bottles with?

Two films have lately been released dealing with interplanetary travel. The publicity writers will sadly disappoint us if they fail to claim that these films are packed with stars.

THE Printing Trade Dispute is, at the time of going to press, still unsettled, and we are compelled once again to present a diminished PUNCH. Extra pages, over and above the normal quota, will be provided as soon as working conditions make this possible.

"The President of the Board of Trade, in a written reply, says that only the chairman of the Furniture Development Council, Sir David Waley, receives a salary, which was fixed by the Board of Trade at £,000 a year."—*Suffolk paper*

It's a matter of principle, presumably.

A novel written by a London taxi driver is to be published this autumn. The blurb should make a point of saying that the author has carefully avoided all the more hackneyed themes.

LEND NO MONEY TO THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN

IF I am to believe half of what I hear—a premise that I am loath to accept—the besetting problem of the housewife is that of making ends meet. Whether for fish or furbelows, the poor dear is for ever scratching pathetically in the dust at the bottom of her purse. Far be it from me to play the traitor to my sex (m.) but I do feel that in other days wives may have shown more address in going to meet this problem half-way.

I have before me a letter* written by one such to her husband some three hundred and thirty-five years ago. I admit that the lady in question was married to a man who in any case was practically rolling in the stuff, but that is not the point: it is the approach that counts, the subtle blending of quiet determination and smooth diplomacy.

"My sweet Life," she begins endearingly. "Now that I have declared to You my mind, for the settling of your Estate, I suppose that it were best for me to bethink what allowance were best for me, for considering what care I have ever had of your Estate, and how respectfully I dealt with those which both by laws of God, Nature & civil Policy, Wit, Religion, Government and Honesty, you my Dear are bound to; I pray and beseech You to grant to me Your most kind and loving Wife the sum of 1600£ per Ann: quarterly to be paid."

Few letter-writers, perhaps, could improve on that. But she could and promptly did. Mentioning casually that this is merely an allowance for Apparel, she requires £600 added yearly for the performance of Charitable Works, "& these things I would not neither will be accountable for."

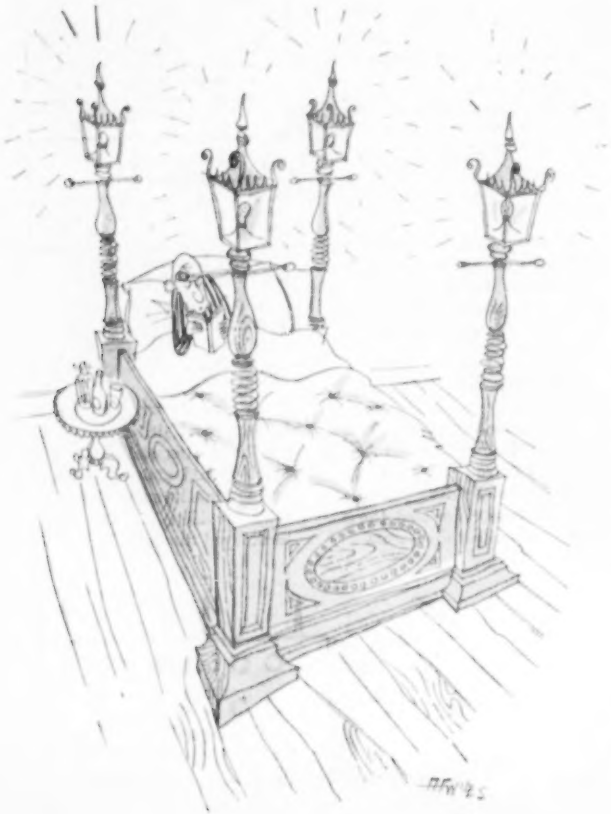
At one blow she establishes a moral ascendancy, ensuring that by any attempt at hedging the shrinking bread-winner would put himself inevitably in the wrong.

Swiftly following up her advantage, she asks for two Gentlewomen, explaining that *two* are necessary "lest one should be Sick, also believe that it is an indecent thing for a Gentlewoman to stand mumping alone when God hath blessed their Lord and Lady with a great Estate."

Occasionally she is content with the direct assault, without frills—"Also when I ride hunting or hawking or travel from one House to another I will have them attending, so for each of these said Women I must and will have a Horse"—but usually the moral suasion is slipped in as well. Thus, when travelling she will [*sic*] be allowed several Carriages, to ensure "not pestering my things with my Womens nor theirs with Chambermaids nor theirs with Washmaids . . . Also that it is indecent to croud up myself with my Gentleman Usher in my Coach, I will have him a convenient Horse to attend me either in city or country . . . ."

We are now at the foot of the second page, and in the nicest way in the world the lady has asked, besides those items already mentioned, for three Horses for her own Sadle ("that none shall dare to lend or borrow, none lend but I, none borrow but You"), six or eight Gentlemen, two Coachmen, two well appointed Coaches of four Horses each, several Carriages, four

* By Lady Compton to her husband, Baron Compton, created Earl of Northampton in 1618.



POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS: KNOCKING-OFF TIME AT HARWELL

Footmen and an unspecified number of Laundresses, as well as "twenty Gowns apparel, 6 of them excellent good ones, 8 of them for the country and 6 other of them very excellent good ones."

One page remains, and it starts off with a bang.

"Also I would have to put in my Purse 2000£ & 200£ and so You to pay my Debts. Also I would have 8000£ to buy my Jewels and 6000£ for a Pearl Chain."

Let any who care translate that into terms of modern currency. The writer (her husband was a Baron, and Barons were worth something in those days) sweeps on with unshaken nerve.

"Now seeing I have been and am so reasonable unto You, I pray You to find my Children Apparel and their Schooling and all my Servants Men & Women their Wages.

"Also I will have all my Houses furnished & all my Lodging Chambers to be suited with all such Furniture as is fit . . . " (including silver warming Pans and cupboards of Plate).

"Also", she says, slipping right in under his guard, "my desire is that You wou'd pay your Debts, build up Ashby House and purchase Lands, and lend no money (as you love God) to the Ld: Chamberlain."

There remains, beside some rather personal remarks concerning the Lord Chamberlain and his family, only the peroration, a brief but telling sentence to round the whole thing off, and this is it:

"So now that I have declared to You my mind what I wou'd have and what I wou'd not have, I pray You when You be an Earl to allow me 1000£ more than now I desired & double attendance.

Your loving Wife,
Eliz: Compton."

I wish I had his lordship's reply, but alas! I have not. Perhaps he was stunned into silence. It is reassuring, however, to know that he still felt able to face the prospect of becoming an Earl and actually did so within two or three years. I will wager it cost him a £ or Two.

PLANTING MISTLETOE

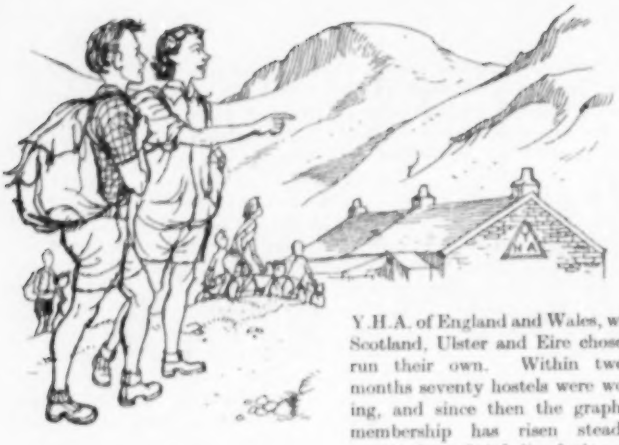
LET the old tree be the gold tree,
Hand up the silver seed;
Let the hoary tree be the glory-tree,
To shine forth at need,
At mirth-time, at dearth-time,
Gold bough and milky bead.

For the root 's going and the fruit 's going,
Soon it will bloom no more:
The growth's arrested, the yaffle's nested
Deep in the hollow core;
Over the grasses thinly passes
The shade so dark before.

Take a few sprigs of the new twigs,
If any such you find;
Don't lose them, but use them,
Keeping a good kind
To be rooting and fruiting
When this is old and blind.

So the tragic tree is the magic tree,
Running the whole range
Of growing and blowing
And suffering change,
Then buying, by dying,
The wonderful and strange.

£35
£35
DAVID LANGDON



ADVENTURE STORY

YOUTH HOSTELS

THERE were three of them, two boys and a girl, eating hard-boiled eggs in a corner of the field. Bicycles and rucksacks were propped against the hedge. We spoke of travel, and I said something gloomy about hotel bills.

"Oh, hotels," they said, as if they were speaking of Montgolfier's fire balloon. "We stay in youth hostels. It costs us four-and-six a night each for supper, bed and breakfast, and less if we choose to burn our own sausages."

"But are the hostels in the places you want to go to?" I asked.

"Well, there are over three hundred of them spaced about, and England and Wales aren't very big."

It all began with an imaginative German schoolmaster named Richard Schirrmann, who felt that inns were too expensive for many of his youngsters who would otherwise go wandering. He persuaded other schoolmasters to put mattresses in class-rooms during the summer holidays, and in 1910 he opened the first youth hostel proper, in an old castle. By 1914 there were two hundred hostels in Germany, by 1928 over two thousand.

Considering the expansion of the model, we were rather slow to follow, for in this country the first hostel was not opened until 1930. In the same year the Youth Hostels Association was formed, covering Great Britain; later it became the Y.H.A. of England and Wales, when Scotland, Ulster and Eire chose to run their own. Within twelve months seventy hostels were working, and since then the graph of membership has risen steadily, except for a brief dip during this last war, and for another, now levelling out, in 1949, which was a natural result of too great pressure during holiday months. Owing to housing difficulties the increase in hostels lagged behind that in members, so that instead of the target of one bed for every eight members there is at present only one for every fifteen.

The aims of the Y.H.A. are the same as those of Richard Schirrmann, to provide cheap accommodation and to promote a livelier individual interest in the countryside. Finance, though a constant headache for the Association, has never proved insuperable. The National Trust has lent houses, the Carnegie Trust and other funds have given grants, and the Ministry of Education may contribute up to half the cost of a new hostel. Once founded it must be self-supporting; this remarkable achievement is due to the goodwill of members, who do their own housework and provide working-parties for repairs. To bring hostellers together there are local groups, often attached to big cities, where they can meet for discussion; in this way the Y.H.A. preserves a keen life of its own and avoids becoming merely a chain of convenient dormitories. Even if it were only that, it would still be nationally important, but as things are its two hundred thousand members form a powerful nucleus determined to keep the best of the country unspoilt and worth exploring. The Juniors, between sixteen and twenty-one, comprise the biggest section, and are our next generation of citizens. On the top level the views of the Association are listened to with respect where rural amenities are concerned, and a number of kindred societies are represented on its National Council.

Hostel buildings range from cottages, through farms, watermills and vicarages, to mansions and, occasionally, to new premises. The smallest takes twelve, the largest one hundred and fifty. The larger are usually more comfortable and economical, while the smaller remain truer to the Y.H.A.'s original ideals. A loss of "mateyness" on the one hand, a fairly stark simplicity on the other. Two schools of thought continue to debate the issue hotly.

There are mercifully few rules, and no age limit for adults. The annual subscription is two shillings for Juveniles (five to sixteen), five shillings for Juniors and ten shillings for Seniors (above twenty-one). You must arrive "under your own steam," a condition often literally carried out; in other words on foot, by cycle or by canoe. Alcohol is barred, but there are no bans of race or creed. In busy months you must book and pay ahead, and meals

must always be arranged in advance. Hostels close at ten, and lights are out at ten-thirty. On arrival you report to the Warden, a permanent, salaried host who will tell you whether you are a sweeper, a potato-peeler, a table-layer or a washer-up. In theory three days are the most you can stay in one hostel, but, if bookings allow, you can generally stay longer. A cotton sleeping-bag is insisted on, to save laundry. Planning your holiday is simplified by a businesslike handbook and a map on which little scarlet triangles stand out invitingly, looking like edible fungi. . . .

The hostel Mr. Punch's Artist has drawn was in Oxfordshire, near the Thames, in a Friends' Meeting House. The men's dormitory was lined with double bunks, and the dining-room had long tables and a gas-stove (those who see to their own food are called "self-cookers," a description sometimes not inaccurate in the case of younger pioneers). Hostels open at five, and, arriving an hour later, we found a stack of bicycles, and a "House Full" notice pinned on the gate. In the dining-room a knot of youths was listening to a young Frenchman who had picked fruit for six weeks and was now intelligently discovering England. He was a student, from Dijon; and, the talk turning to wine, a schoolboy from the Midlands startled him with first-hand views on the chemistry of fermentation. Boys and girls, mostly in shorts, drifted in and added their stories of the road. Some had come from Stratford, and had been delightedly to Shakespeare, others had combed through Oxford and were going on towards the South Downs. Everyone talked, yet all seemed eager to listen. A few older hostellers joined us too. About seven the tables were laid, and at a summons from the kitchen, where the Warden's son was chef, we went and carried back an honest supper. I sat next to a middle-aged secretary from Yorkshire, an enthusiast for hostels, in which she spent week-ends as well as holidays. She goes alone, but said she finds new friends everywhere. On my other side was a charming family, a mother, father and their son of ten, who were cycling forty miles a day and appearing to enjoy every inch of it. Afterwards, when we went and chatted with the Warden, and noted how kindly and helpfully he dealt with the stream of young people that came to him for information ("Where shall I put the scraps?" "What do the steamers cost?" "Any chance of getting in at Basingstoke?") we had no doubts left that here was a really bright spot in the ancient patchwork of our funny social fabric.

It seems almost too good to be true that the whole country, and particularly the most remote and exciting parts of it, should thus be made accessible to anyone with a few shillings in his pocket. If you were an adventurous boy would you rather have a boarding-house and cinemas and endless wet promenades or, say, the thrill of making your own way to an isolated cottage in Cumberland with the magnificent title of "The Black Sail Hostel," where you would be greeted as a blood-brother? We live in an age that is rapidly pulping us into a mechanized herd, but if we still care anything for individuals—people who will choose their own interests, and find them in nature, and stoutly decline to be spoon-fed with mass entertainment—then it seems clear that youth hostels are very important indeed. And apart from Uncle Joe's iron-girt pleasaunce they open up all Europe for absurdly small sums.

ERIC KEOWN

LUNCH

APPROACH it from Aldersgate,
Approach it from Moorgate,
Come up from St. Paul's
To my castle.

In those broad acres at the lunch hour
You will find me mapping out my farm.

I think I am a Briton
The Romans allowed to cultivate corn
Outside the corner bastion of the wall.

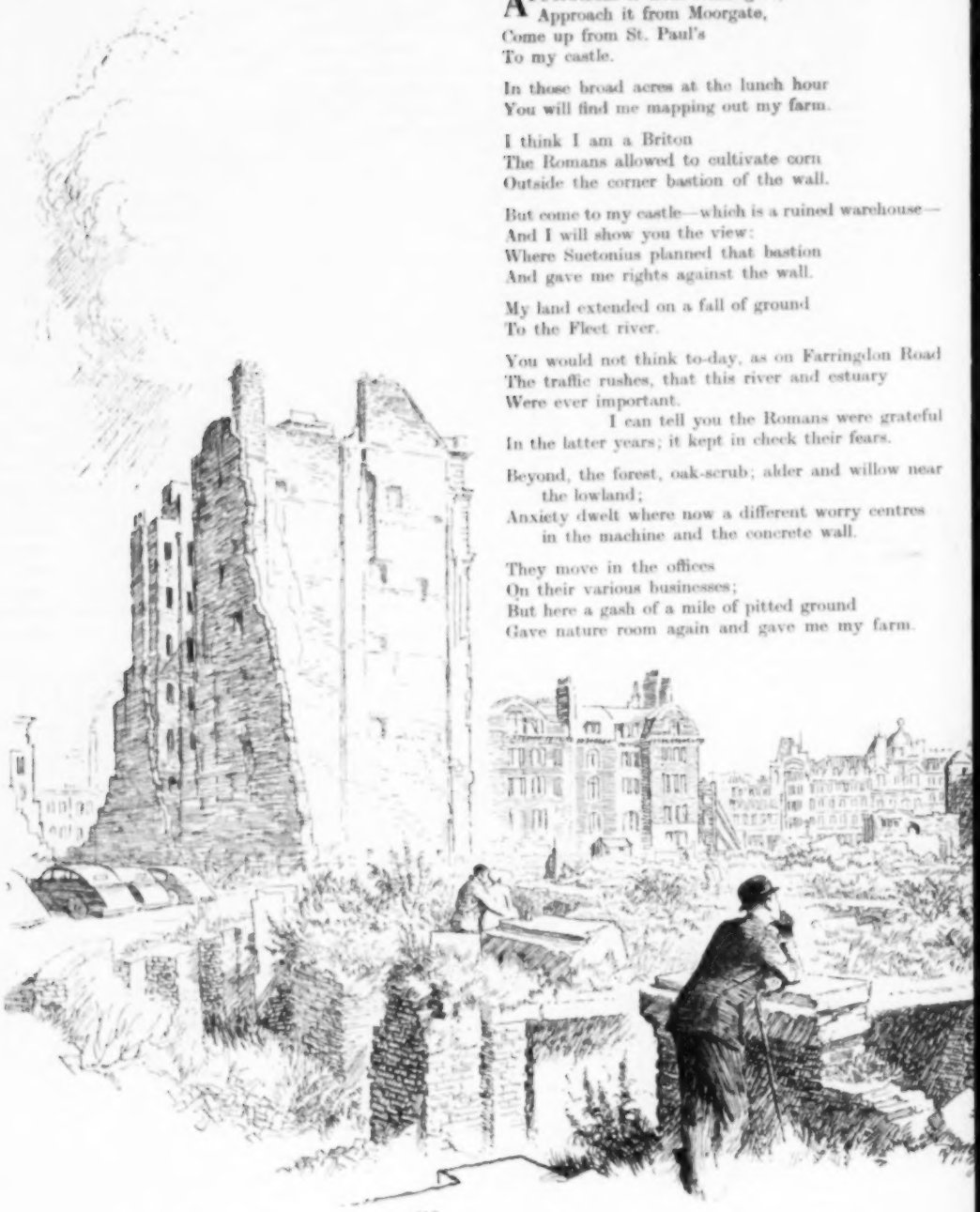
But come to my castle—which is a ruined warehouse—
And I will show you the view:
Where Suetonius planned that bastion
And gave me rights against the wall.

My land extended on a fall of ground
To the Fleet river.

You would not think to-day, as on Farringdon Road
The traffic rushes, that this river and estuary
Were ever important.
I can tell you the Romans were grateful
In the latter years; it kept in check their fears.

Beyond, the forest, oak-scrub; alder and willow near
the lowland;
Anxiety dwelt where now a different worry centres
in the machine and the concrete wall.

They move in the offices
On their various businesses;
But here a gash of a mile of pitted ground
Gave nature room again and gave me my farm.



HOURS

For at the lunch hour gaily my spirit
Wanders around here and climbs the ruined shells
And has a width for its eye.

All surveyors I shun.

But they come and the new is planned.
When that time comes I will remember
The times I scanned the stars from ruined shells,
Seemed to gather a pained and cold meaning that was worth it
Because it was meaning:

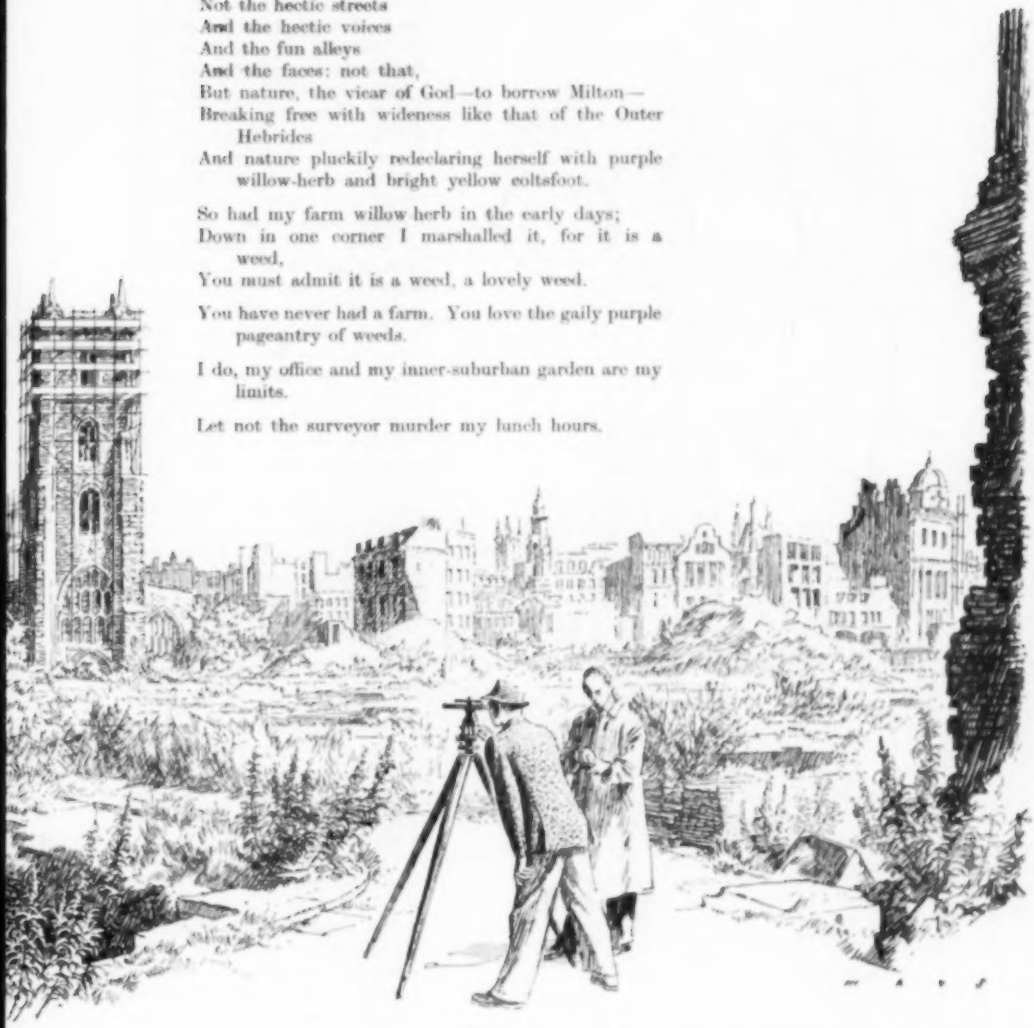
Not the hectic streets
And the hectic voices
And the fun alleys
And the faces: not that,
But nature, the vicar of God—to borrow Milton—
Breaking free with wideness like that of the Outer Hebrides
And nature pluckily redeclaring herself with purple willow-herb and bright yellow coltsfoot.

So had my farm willow herb in the early days;
Down in one corner I marshalled it, for it is a weed,
You must admit it is a weed, a lovely weed.

You have never had a farm. You love the gaily purple pageantry of weeds.

I do, my office and my inner-suburban garden are my limits.

Let not the surveyor murder my lunch hours.



A PROPHECY

THE week after next an amateur will play a small part with our repertory company, and I know exactly what is going to happen. He is going to be asked to share my dressing-room.

My dressing-room is always used as a depository, because it is too handily situated at the top of the stairs. People wheel enormous baskets into it, full of moths, and never come back for them. In one corner there is a bass drum stencilled HARRY'S RHYTHM, which was used as a barrage in *Journey's End* before I joined the company. The window-ledge is lined with whisky bottles, some containing a solution of gravy-browning and some containing spiders. A rolled Axminster carpet is propped against a wall, and periodically slumps to the floor like a body. There is also what I take to be an antiquated contrivance for making the sound of wind, and the inside of a grand piano.

In the midst of all this I crouch on the spindly chair, peering into my mirror, with all my wardrobe on two hooks, and my feet on the handle of the wind-machine. And a very glamorous picture I make, I shouldn't be surprised.

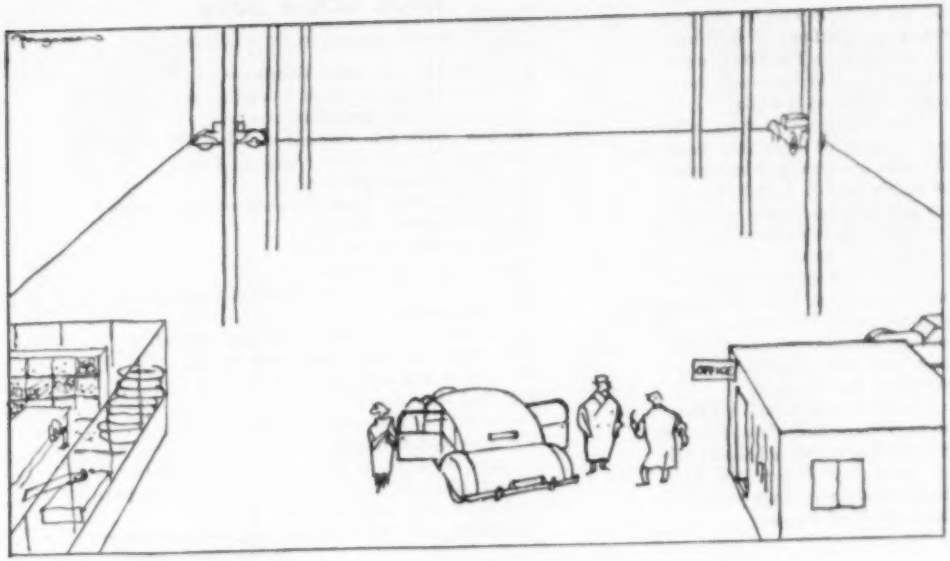
The function of this amateur will be to poke his head through the door down Left towards the end of the third act, looking like a chauffeur, say "All ready now, sir," and vanish. On the Monday night, an hour and a half before the curtain is due to rise, he is going to hurry through the stage-door, wearing a duffle-coat. Under one arm he will have the current *Stage*, and under the other he will have a make-up box of awe-inspiring proportions.

When I enter the dressing-room an hour later, still limp from dress rehearsal, I shall find him sitting on my chair. In my mirror I shall see his face, which will be painted the colour of raw liver. The rickety cigar-box containing my half-dozen grubby stumps of grease-paint will be stuck away in a corner, and his enormous shiny steel cabinet will stand before him, opened in all directions, with drawers, trays, ledges, cubby-holes, sections, trap-doors, divisions, lids, and a bit that comes up like a lift. In this complicated honeycomb I shall observe a dazzling range of gleaming grease-paints, each stick bedded comfortably in its allotted niche, in numerical order, a good ninety per cent of them in their original Cellophane.

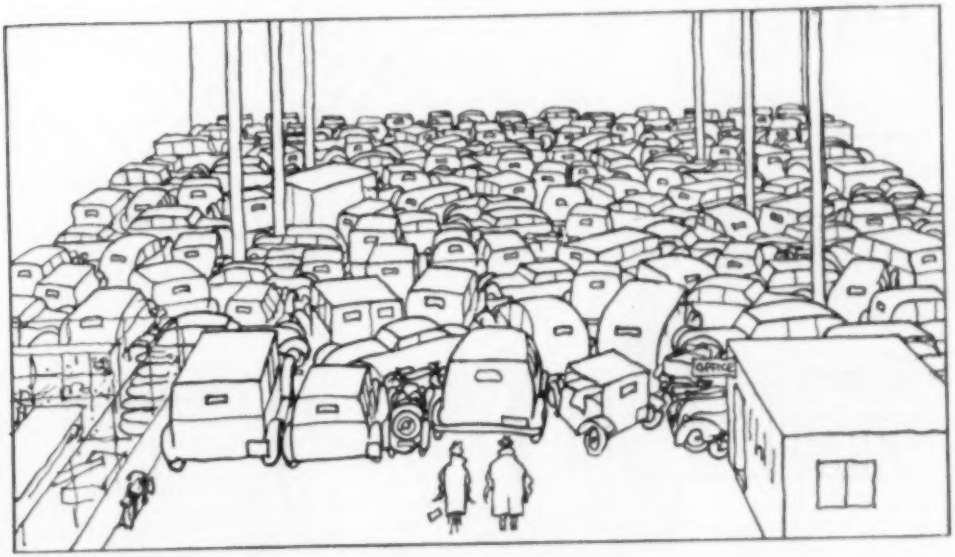
While I arrange a seat for myself on the bass drum, and place my cigar-box humbly before my shaving-mirror, he will greet me heartily, and engage me in conversation about Strindberg.

Stumbling about in the confined space trying to get into my first-act clothes I shall mutter non-committal responses while he outlines the plot of a play he has written, describes a recent performance he gave as Macbeth and deplores the cultural decay of the West End theatre. I shall try to look through

"I had to wait a year for them."



"Just for the evening? Very good, sir—I'll put it up in the far corner, sir, all ready for you to drive away when you . . .



come back . . .!"

my lines, and he will gargle. I shall seek my monocle, and he will have ground it underfoot. I shall compose myself for a last few minutes' rest, and he will be seized by an attack of nervous hysteria.

I shall assure him that his make-up is perfect, his intonation impeccable, and his chances of missing his cue absolutely nil. I shall help him into his leggings (which won't be seen), and I shall send for a light ale to steady his nerves.

Then I shall shake his hand, and wish him luck, and leave him pacing the room with his speech in one hand and a damp powder-puff in the other, and seek the more restful turmoil of the wings.

I know it will be just like that: and yet I know that when he makes his trembling entrance I shall smile and cross my fingers for him. Because it will seem only yesterday that I did it all myself.

BACK ROOM JOYS

PEOPLE BEHIND US IN A QUEUE

ONE of the pleasanter things we do
Is counting the people behind us in a queue.
While we are the last, ourselves only,
We feel public and exposed and lonely;
The smug ones in front seem to glare,
We are obviously inferior
So we talk rather loudly to show we don't care.
We are instantly cheerier
With any new arrival at all;
The margin may be small
But we are not the last, no longer the latest, the least.
Soon the tail has increased;
We are secure, well buttressed, well padded.
And, when still more have been added,
We turn round and count
And find they amount
To more than the people in front.
We, who long bore the brunt,
Are now definitely in the top half of the class:
We can afford to relax, serenely allow time to pass.
And if we, now and then, also glare
It's only to gloat over how many more there are there.

JUSTIN RICHARDSON

"We didn't let you know—we thought it might spoil your holiday."

THEATRE SKETCHBOOK

GUARANTEED INDELIBLE

SHE enters the ironmonger's shop in front of me, elegantly dressed in a light print dress, and it surprises me, when she speaks to the salesman, that she is not the perfection of charm I had confidently expected her to be.

What she wants is some black paint-stuff for painting a gate. It must be black and it must not come off.

You cannot trust anybody or anything nowadays, she says; the last stuff she bought washed off in the very first shower of rain; it was, in fact, an absolute waste of money and it was disgraceful that anybody should sell such stuff.

The salesman is sorry. Had madam bought it at his shop?

Madam cannot remember where she bought it.

He suggests that perhaps the wood was wet, or it was raining when the paint was applied. It cannot be guaranteed, he says, unless the material is dry and it is not raining.

He has the very thing, he says, and takes a can off a shelf behind him.

Will it preserve the wood absolutely against rot?

He assures madam that it will.

And it will not wash off?

He promises that it will not.

It is, in fact, *absolutely indelible?*

It is—he repeats the words—absolutely indelible.

She removes the cork and smells the stuff.

He begs her to be careful, lest a drop should splash into her eye.

She replaces the cork and says she will buy the can.

The salesman says "Excuse me, madam, is the cork absolutely firm?"

She says "Of course. I put it back myself."

Can he wrap it up and send it for her?

No, she will take it; she has a car outside.

He is sure, she inquires again, that it is *absolutely* indelible?

He repeats the assurance.

I feel sympathy with the salesman and I say to him, when the lady has left the shop, that success in his job calls for rare good manners and patience.

He smiles and admits that perhaps some customers are a little more difficult than others.

And here, unexpectedly, is the lady back in the shop again.

Her light print dress, alas, is no longer the spotless and elegant costume that it was a minute or two earlier. It is evident that the cork had not been properly replaced.

"What does one use," she asks, "to get this stain out?"

"Chiropodists in the City undertook to treat old people at their own surgeries at a per capita fee. This scheme, however, did not prove satisfactory."
Bulletin of Welfare Committee

Now, if they had been barbers . . .

B.C.

(PLACE, NOT TIME)

IF I were one-and-twenty again with a lifetime's work to seek
I would take a boat by the Tail o' the Bank and follow the setting sun;
I would go west and west again for a week and then a week
And never a halt or a backward look till the long, long trek was done.

I would pass the bergs off bleak Belle-Isle and the slow St. Lawrence reach,
The queenly presence of Montreal, Quebec's enchanted ground,
Ottawa's sky-wide acres and Nipigon's pine-girt beach,
Banff where the Bow comes roaring down and the Rockies gather round.

I would follow the trail by Castle Mountain over the Great Divide,
Down by the drop of the Kicking Horse and the Beaver Valley bend,
By Revelstoke and by Sicamous and along Lake Shuswap side
Till I came to the Fraser River and it sang me down to the end.

To meet at last by a second sea in the jaws of the Lion Gate
Vancouver set on her bays and bluffs in the kind Pacific air,
Where the ships come in from the ends of the earth and the box-cars load their freight;
And there I would find me a job of work and I'd cast anchor there.

A job of work—and a hundred hills that dazzle the climber's eyes,
The seaward beaches hot in the sun in sight of the landward snow,
Deer to hunt in the twilight woods with a twelve-point head for prize,
Trout in the Capilano. Can you beat Vancouver? No!

British Columbia, that's the name—or short and sweet "B.C."
Where Hope says "This is the place for you," and faint 's the heart would doubt it.
Hills and forests and suns and snows—and your pile to make, maybe.
That's where I'd go if *I* were young . . . Young Britain, what about it?

H. B.

LAMENT OF AN IDLE DEMON

IT'S quiet in Hell just now, it's very tame,
The devils and the damned alike lie snoring.
Just a faint smell of sulphur, not much flame;
The human souls come here and find it boring.

Satan, the poor old Puritan, sits there
Emitting mocking laughter once a minute;
Idly he scans a page of Baudelaire
And wonders how he once saw evil in it.

He sips his brimstone at the Demons' Club
(His one amusement now he's superseded)
And keeps complaining to Beelzebub
That men make hotter hells than ever he did.

R. P. LISTER

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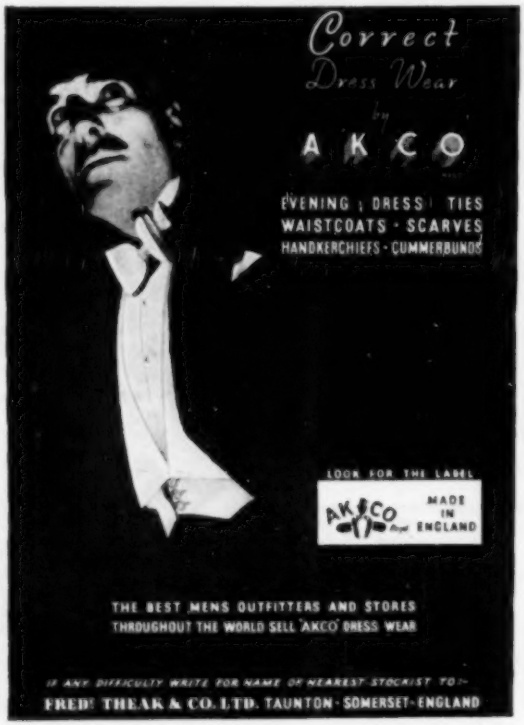

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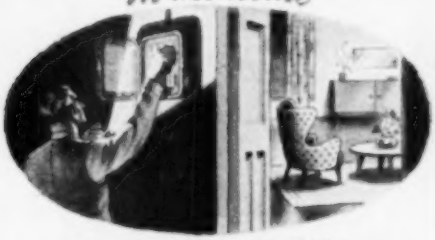

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ADORNED with rubies and sapphires from the Mogôk mines of Burma this Shan woman prepares her food. These jewels and the common clay of her ornate bowl are but a few of the many minerals containing aluminium. Though first isolated in 1826, it was not until 1886 that its production became commercially practicable. Most of the world's aluminium is now produced by dissolving an ore named bauxite in molten cryolite, a mineral obtained from Greenland, and passing an electric current through the solution. In combination with other metals such as magnesium or copper, aluminium forms light alloys, some of which, though only about one third of the weight of steel, are just as strong and do not rust. The famous statue of Eros in Piccadilly Circus, one of the earliest large aluminium castings, shows no signs of corrosion after 40 years' exposure to London smoke.

One of the largest factories producing wrought aluminium and its alloys in the form of sheet, strip and extrusions is the I.C.I. works at Waunarlwydd in South Wales. These go to help in the production of all manner of finished articles from saucepans to aeroplanes, scaffolding poles to ashtrays, motor car parts to egg cups.

ICI

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Hydrated magnesium carbonate blended, in 85% magnesia coverings, with long fibred asbestos produces the feather-like structure and massed air cells which achieve 90% efficient heat insulation. Only Darlington pharmaceutical quality magnesia is used and entire freedom from corrosive reaction is guaranteed. One or all three of our group of companies is at your service, and personal consultation through our resident representatives in the major industrial areas is readily available on receipt of your enquiry.

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Foden continues to make history . .

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WHITE SATIN GIN

Made especially for distinguished strangers and equally important friends.
Always keep some in the sideboard.

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The wheels turn round
Sound as they pound
JAMAICA IS THE WORD FOR RUM

Again, again
The same refrain
JAMAICA IS THE WORD FOR RUM

The whole long train
Repeats the strain
JAMAICA IS THE WORD FOR RUM
(now we're running over a bridge)

We're willing to bet
You'll never forget
JAMAICA JAMAICA JAMAICA
means RUM

It's wonderful what **JAMAICA RUM** *will do!*

"I'm a salesman, I sell all sorts of shaving gear...

GIVE ME THE Buk SHAVING METHOD

every time"

"I don't adopt new methods without good reason. And I wasn't entirely sold on Electric Dry Shavers until a doctor, who was buying a BUK, told me how its shaving action *protects the skin* (mine is easily irritated). He said the Medical Profession are all in favour of this method. So it seemed good sense to take to BUK shaving.

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Ask the salesman to give you a personal demonstration

In any difficulty, write to:
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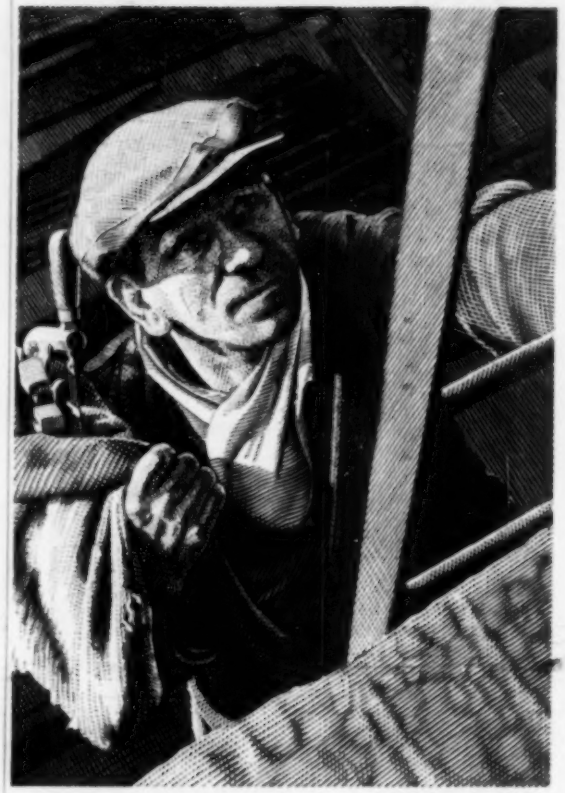

GOING UP TO TAKE IT DOWN

Scale in industrial water systems can cause any amount of trouble. Choked pipes must be dismantled, seized valves freed, and water heaters cleaned — there is never any lack of work for the maintenance staff. Many of these troubles can be avoided before they start, simply by treating the water with Calgon (which is Albright & Wilson's sodium metaphosphate). A few parts of Calgon in a million of water will prevent scale or stop corrosion. The advice of Albright & Wilson's Technical Service Department is available for the asking.

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'Concord' Ports

and of course . . . Chaplins Sherries

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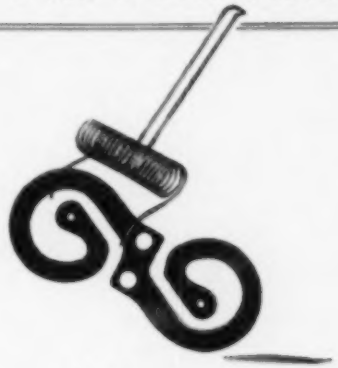

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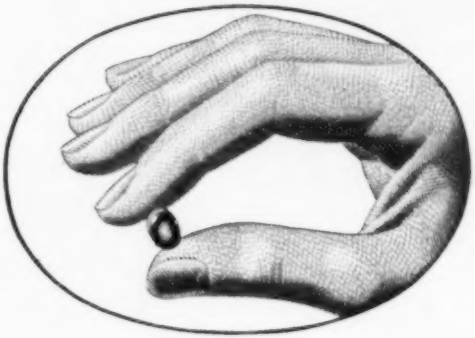
Why wait to ***CURE*** a cold



when it's easier to ***PREVENT*** it!

The very best *natural* defence against colds, influenza epidemics, and other winter ailments is Crookes Halibut Oil. Each of these capsules contains concentrated 'protection' and concentrated 'sunshine' in the shape of vitamins A and D. Take Crookes Halibut Oil steadily throughout the wintry months, and keep yourself fit and well.

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